

**Distribution of unutilised MPLADS funds among sitting Members**

3785. SHRI RAMA CHANDRA KHUNTIA: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether as per the existing guidelines the balance MPLADS fund after retirement of a Member of Rajya Sabha is to be distributed among the sitting Members of Rajya Sabha from that State;

(b) whether the balance MPLADS fund of those Members from Orissa who retired on 2nd July, 1998 has not been distributed among the sitting Members even after 30 months; and

(c) whether it is a fact that the District Planning Office, Blocks, Municipality, RD, R and B or Irrigation Department is not taking interest for MPLADS projects?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF STATISTICS AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION (SHRI ARUN SHOURIE): (a) and (b) All the State Government including Government of Orissa were advised on 15.12.2000 that after collecting information on unspent balance of the retired Rajya Sabha MPs, the share of successor MPs should be distributed on priority basis. The Government of Orissa has intimated that disbursement of balance amount of MPLADS fund to the successor Rajya Sabha MPs was delayed because of non availability of required information. However, they have assured this Ministry that immediate necessary action is being taken by the Government of Orissa.

(c) In December, 2000, Hon'ble Member of Parliament wrote to Chief Secretary, Orissa, with a copy to this Ministry stating that Blocks, Municipalities and various line departments were not implementing expeditiously the projects recommended by him. The Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation immediately brought this to the notice of Chief Secretary, Orissa, for immediate action.